

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2008

**JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL
SCREENING COMMITTEE**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced Friday the formation of a judicial screening committee to help fill a vacancy in the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

Justice Garman established the screening committee to assess the qualifications of those persons who have applied for appointment to the Circuit Court vacancy created by the upcoming retirement of Judge Robert J. Eggers of Springfield. Under the Illinois Constitution, the vacancy will be filled by Supreme Court appointment.

After the committee has received public input, gathered information and interviewed each of the applicants, it will report findings to Justice Garman, who will make a recommendation to the Supreme Court from among those applicants submitting their credentials to the committee.

The person appointed by the Supreme Court will serve as a judge of the Circuit Court until the General Election to be held in November 2010.

The screening committee consists of seven persons who reside in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Four of the committee members are non-lawyers and three are lawyers.

The non-lawyer members of the committee include Jim Bruner, Jacksonville businessman; Howard Humphrey, CEO of American Brand in Springfield; Carolyn Moore, retired teacher and businesswoman of Rochester; and Howard Peters with the Illinois Hospital Association in Springfield.

The lawyer members of the committee include retired Judge Ron Robinson of Winchester; Peggy Ryan with Sorling, Northrup, Hanna, Cullen & Cochran in Springfield; and John G. Noll of Noll Law Offices in Springfield.

Howard Peters will serve as chairperson of the committee.

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**Justice Garman Announces Screening Committee
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Applicants who will be considered for appointment to the judgeship, and who will be screened by the committee are Eve Blackwell, Pete Cavanagh, Carl Draper, Denise Druhot and Patrick Hansen, all Springfield attorneys.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to Peggy Ryan, secretary of the Seventh Judicial Screening Committee, 200 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, IL 62701. Comments should be received by the Committee before Saturday, July 19, 2008. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the Committee and the Court.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit includes Greene, Jersey, Morgan, Macoupin, Sangamon and Scott counties.